

Message Text

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67

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C O N F I D E N T I A L DAKAR 4961

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PORG, UN, US, KS, KN, SG

SUBJECT: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: SENEGAL KOREA AND PUERTO

REF: A STATE 181500, B STATE 188804, C STATE 181704, D STATE
178429, E STATE 184999, F DAKAR 4731, G DAKAR 4942

1. SUMMARY: SINCE SECRETARY'S JULY 22 SPEECH, SENEGALESE PRESS HAS CARRIED BOTH ROK ENDORSEMENT AND DPRK CRITICISM, PROVIDED BY RESPECTIVE EMBASSIES IN DAKAR. FOREIGN MINISTER SECK HAS TOLD PRESS THAT ROK PARTICIPATION IN NAM COULD BE CONSIDERED ON ITS MERITS, BUT HE EXPRESSED GENERAL SUPPORT FOR DPRK POSITION ON TRANSFORMING ARMISTICE INTO PEACE TREATY. EMBOFF DELIVERED SECRETARY'S REMARKS ON KOREA AND PRESIDENT RORDJS STATEMENT ON LUERTO RICO TO POLITICAL OFFICERS ON FOREIGN MINISTRY, WHO EXPRESSED VIEWS THAT SENEGAL HAD TAKEN INITIAL POSITION ON KOREA WITHOUT SUFFICIENT REFLECTION, AND THAT CURRENT POLICY REEVALUATION MIGHT LEAD TO SOME ADJUSTMENTS. THE DOUBTED POLITICAL VIABILITY OF FOUR PARTY CONFERENCE, IT VOICED FEAR OF DPRK INVASION OF SOUTH AND ACKNOWLEDGED US RIGHT TO MAINTAIN FORCES IN ROK. OFFICIALS EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING THAT ADVERSE UN VOTING COULD UNDERMINE AMERICAN PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR UN PROGRAMS. END SUMMARY.

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2. KOREAN ISSUE HAS RECEIVED PROMINENT MEDIA ATTENTION SINCE SECRETARY'S JULY 22 ADDRESS. JULY 24 LE SOLEIL INCLUDED STATEMENT PROVIDED BY ROK EMBASSY ON ROK SUPPORT FOR US PROPOSALS. JULY 27 ISSUE CARRIED INTERVIEW WITH DPRK AMBASSADOR HWANG TCHEOUL SOUL, WHO CALLED IT "CURIOUS" THAT US PROPOSITIONS ALWAYS MADE ON EVE OF INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES. HE CALLED SPEECH "MANOEUEVER FOR DIVERTING ATTENTION FROM TRUE PROBLEM OF MILITARY OCCUPATION OF SOUTH KOREA BY US." HWANG SAID CHINA ITSELF RECOGNIZED IT HAD NO REASON TO SPEAK IN NAME OF KOREAN PEOPLE. "SINCE THE AMERICANS CAN SPEAK IN NAME OF SOUTH KOREAN GOVERNMENT, WE ARE READY TO DISCUSS WITH THEM. BUT WE WILL DISCUSS FIRST THE MODALITIES OF WITHDRAWAL OF THEIR OCCUPATION TROOPS." HWANG TOOK CONFIDENCE FROM MORE THAN 70 FAVORABLE RESPONSES WHICH DPRK HAD RECEIVED TO LETTER SENT TO NATIONAL ASSEMBLIES AROUND WORLD (ONLY US, UK AND JAPAN REACTED WITH HOSTILITY, HE SAID).

3. GOS FONMIN SECK MET WITH JOURNALISTS JULY 29 AND REPORTEDLY CALLED FOR NAM TO REAFFIRM ITS INDEPENDENCE VIS-A-VIS ALL "HEGEMONIC BLOCS." ACCORDING TO PRESS, HE SAID ROK CANDIDATURE FOR PARTICIPTION IN SUMMIT COULD BE EXAMINED DURING CONFERENCE. IF ROK SATISFIED REQUISITE CONDITIONS TO JOIN NAM, IT WOULD BE UP TO CONFERENCE TO MAKE FINAL DECISION ON ITS ADHESION. SECK SAID GOS WISHED TO CONTRIBUTE TO PEACEFUL SOLUTION OF KOREAN ISSUE BY MEANS OF DIALOGUE. NEWSPAPER ACCOUNT INDICATED SECK SAW AS "ACCEPTABLE" DPRK POSITIONS FAVORING "DISCUSSIONS WITHOUT TREATS AND WITHOUT INTERMEDIARIES, AS WELL AS TRANSFORMATION OF 1953 ARMISTICE INTO PEACE TREATY. IT SEEMS TO US THAT THAT ATTITUDE IS JUST AND THAT IT CAN PROVIDE AN OBJECTIVE BASIS FOR DISCUSSIONS," SECK WAS QUOTED AS SAYING.

4. EMBOFF CALLED ON SALOUM KANDE, DIRECTOR OF POLITICAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS, AND BALLA DIA, CHIEF OF UN AND NON-ALIGNED DIVISION OF GOS FOREIGN MINISTRY, JULY 30 TO DISCUSS MULTILATERAL ISSUES IN ADVANCE OF COLOMBO SUMMIT.
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EMBOFF LEFT TEXT OF JULY 22 SPEECH AND PRESIDENT FORD'S PUERTO RICO STATEMENT. IN LIGHT OF SECK'S REPORTED REMARKS, ORAL PRESENTATION EMPHASIZED THAT ROK WOULD HAVE TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY NEGOTIATIONS AND THAT THERE WOULD HAVE TO BE MORE PERMANENT ARRANGEMENT DEvised BEFORE ARMISTICE DISSOLVED. GOS OFFICIALS CONFIRMED SECK'S REPORTED REMARKS AS GENERALLY ACCURATE, BUT SAID STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR

DPRK POSITION SIMPLY REFLECTED GOS VIEW THAT IT WAS TIME FOR ARMISTICE TO BE TRANSFORMED INTO PEACE TREATY. THEY SAID NORTH KOREANS WERE UPSET OVER SENEGAL'S WILLINGNESS THAT ROK BE CONSIDERED FOR NAM PARTICIPATION. (EMBASSY HAS REPORT THAT DPRK AMBASSADOR CALLED ON FONMIN TO URGE THAT GOS OPPOSE ROK ATTENDANCE). KANDE AND ISA NOTED THAT OTHER MEMBERS OF NAM-- INCLUDING SENEGAL AND NORTH KOREA--ALSO HAD MILITARY ARRANGEMENTS WITH OUTSIDE POWERS AND REITERATED PAST ASSURANCES THAT GOS RECOGNIZED US RIGHT TO MAINTAIN TROOPS IN SOUTH KOREA UNDER BILATERAL AGREEMENT ONCE UNC DISSOLVED. THE OFFERED VIEW THAT SENEGAL HAD INITIALLY TAKEN POSITION ON KOREAN QUESTION WITHOUT SUFFICIENT REFLECTION, AND SAID GOS WAS NOW TRYING TO FIND MORE OBJECTIVE POSITION. OFFICIALS SAID THERE WAS POSSIBILITY OF SOME SHIFT IN GOS POSITION AFTER NAM SUMMIT WHEN CURRENT REEVALUATION WAS COMPLETED.

5. KANDE/DIA AGREED ARMISTICE SHOULD NOT BE DISSOLVED WITHOUT ASSURANCE OF SOME ARRANGEMENT TO REPLACE IT; THEY SAW DANGER THAT, IF DPRK THOUGHT IT HAD NAM'S MORAL SUPPORT, IT WOULD INVADE SOUTH KOREA IN ABSENCE OF ARMISTICE. HOWEVER, THEY DOUBTED THAT FOUR-PARTY CONFERENCE AS PROPOSED BY US WAS POLITICALLY VIABLE IDEA. IN ENDING CONVERSATION, OFFICIALS ASKED HOW SENEGAL COULD BE HELPFUL TO US AT COLOMBO. EMBOFF RESPONDED BY DRAWING ON POINTS CONTAINED IN AIDE MEMOIRE PROVIDED REF D AS MODIFIED BY REF B, NOTING THAT OUTRIGHT ENDORSEMENT OF DPRK AS AT ALGIERS WOULD NOT PROMOTE CONCILIATION AND DIRECT NEGOTIATION, AND POINTING OUT THAT NAM CALL FOR WITHDRAWAL OF US FORCES WOULD BE CONTRARY TO SENEGAL'S OWN POSITION.

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6. AS KANDE AND DIA HAVE BOTH SPENT SEVERAL YEARS IN US AND ARE PERCEPTIVE OBSERVERS OF AMERICAN POLITICAL SCENE, EMBOFF EXPRESSED "PERSONAL CONCERN," DRAWING ON REF E, THAT REACTION OF US PUBLIC TO UN VOTES AFFRONTING AMERICAN NATIONAL PRIDE OR CHALLENGING OUR COMMITMENTS COULD UNDERMINE USG'S ABILITY TO SUSTAIN NECESSARY POPULAR SUPPORT FOR UN PROGRAMS. GOS OFFICIALS AGREED THAT THIS WAS SERIOUS EVENTUALITY WHICH WE SHOULD WORK TOGETHER TO AVERT.

7. SENEGALESE OFFICIALS SAID NACC IN NEW YORK WAS COMPILING COMMENTS FROM NAM MEMBERS ON POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC DECLARATIONS PREPARED AT ALGIERS NACC MEETING, AND INCORPORATING REPORT ON UNCTAD IV, WHICH WOULD LEAD TO REVISED DRAFTS FOR CONSIDERATION AT COLOMBO.

8. KANDE AND DIA ARE FAVORABLY DISPOSED TOWARD US AND
OFTEN GIVE US MORE ENCOURAGEMENT THAT EVENTUAL SENEGALESE
POSITIONS WARRANT. HOWEVER, DURING ABOVE EXCHANGE
(WHICH LASTED TWO HOURS) IT WAS EVIDENT THAT THEY PERSONALLY
WERE GIVING SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO CONCERNS US HAS
RAISED. SINCE DIA WILL BE IN GOS DELEGATION TO
COLOMBO AND BOTH EXPECT TO ATTEND 31ST UNGA, THEIR
VIEWS MAY HAVE SOME IMPACT ON SENEGALESE
POSITIONS AND RHETORIC.
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